

POLICE DEPARTMENT REPORT

Mission Statement

To be the finest small police department in the State of Vermont. We are committed to working together within the department and in problem-solving partnerships with community stakeholders to improve the quality of life for the people served by the Bristol Police Department.

Community policing has been defined as a “**philosophy, management style, and organizational strategy**” with the end goal of building community relationships and not only solving crime but addressing the causes of crime within a community. Community policing involves any body of people (whether that be schools, businesses, residents, community organizations, churches, or anyone in the community) collaborating with the police to identify problems within the areas they live in and how to solve them.

The Town of Bristol Selectboard has approved the creation of a Community Resource Specialist, a Town of Bristol civilian position housed within the Bristol Police Department. The Community Resource Specialist works directly for the Chief of Police under the supervision of the officer on shift. Duties shall consist of, but are not limited to, several general non-law enforcement responsibilities necessary to assist with quality-of-life calls for service from the community, where a sworn police officer response is not required, to assist in the stability and safety of the community. The Community Resource Specialist position involves working with individuals experiencing varying levels of emotional distress, crisis, and potentially physical/verbal conflict. Assignments may be challenging, requiring the Community Resource Specialist to use tact, courtesy, de-escalation techniques, and conflict resolution techniques while maintaining their safety and that of the individual in need or crisis to deliver necessary help and direction to resources.

We appreciate the Bristol Selectboard’s commitment and investment to the community by providing a resource to assist Bristol Police with community-focused, compassionate, and empathetic responses to calls for service within our community.

Thank you, Porter Knight, for your continued Bristol Social Justice Discussions. If you would like more information or to be added to the notification list for events, email Porter at knight@gmvat.net. The Lawrence Memorial Library provides information about discussions in its newsletter and adult event pages on its website: www.lawrencelibraryvt.org.

We continue to be at Bristol Elementary School and Mount Abraham Union Middle and High School during arrival and dismissal. Many students and parents stop to thank us for being there or to say hi. We appreciate the handmade cards and cookies we receive from students.

We stop during events at the Town Park, Holley Hall, Bristol Recreation Club, Mount Abraham Unified School District Schools, Local Businesses, Organizational Groups and Clubs, and more. During these encounters, we learn from members of the community what we are doing well and how we can continue to make the community safe. Members of the Old Farts are a wealth of information and are eager to provide guidance and suggestions. We appreciate these collaborative discussions; working together, we can accomplish more. Please do not hesitate to contact us; we enjoy meeting with you for informative and meaningful discussions.

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Our speed radar message signs are a friendly reminder you are entering a 30 MPH area. Please continue to provide us with message suggestions to be displayed.

Currently, we have three Police vehicles: a 2018 Ford Explorer, a 2020 Ford F-150, and a 2022 Dodge Charger.

As a reminder, if you have unused medication, we have a drug disposal box in the lobby at the Police Station.

We continue to build relationships with community partners to assist persons in need. We work with Bristol's 5-Town Partnership, the Turning Point Center of Addison County, Addison County Restorative Justice Services, HOPE, Age Well, Atria Collective (formerly known as WomenSafe), the Department for Children and Family Services, the Counseling Service of Addison County and the United Way of Addison County to name a few. We also participate in Project Vision North with our Addison County partners to ensure people in need are receiving services.

We are thankful for the ongoing support from our Mount Abraham Unified School District partnership. Our commitment to the students and faculty continues to evolve and improve with the positive relationships developed through our interactions with the schools. Thank you, Principal Shannon Warden and all Mount Abraham Unified District administrators and staff, for your support, guidance, and assistance.

We appreciate and are grateful for the continued support from our law enforcement partners, the Vergennes Police Department, the Middlebury Police Department, and the Vermont State Police, for providing support and assistance without hesitation.

We complete fingerprint requests, so there is no need for an appointment. The best time to stop is between 9 AM and 2 PM or after 3:30 PM. Bring a completed fingerprint authorization form along with two forms of identification. There is no charge for Bristol Police District residents; all others pay a \$30 check or cash. VIN verifications, property checks (if you are away for a few days, simply contact us in advance), and security evaluation of your property are a few services we provide. If there is something we can help with, please do not hesitate to call us.

We appreciate the collaboration with event organizers and fellow first responders to provide a safe and joyful experience during the many events offered throughout the year in Bristol.

We completed approximately 3,564 calls for service in 2023. They include all incidents reported and or responded to, proactive patrols, and traffic-related encounters.

We use social media (Facebook) to receive tips, identify people, reunite dog owners, and assist in returning found property, for example. We are open to suggestions of other preferred platforms to provide and receive information.

The members of the Bristol Police Department thank the great Bristol community, Bristol Town Departments, Town Administrator Valerie Capels, and the Bristol Selectboard for their

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continued support. With current staffing levels, the cooperation and support between the departments is invaluable to us. Thank you, Sharon Lucia, Eric Cota, Brett LaRose, Will Elwell, Meridith McFarland, and Taylor Welch.

Sgt Andrew Graham and Francis Smith are full-time officers. Matthew Collins, Michael Major, Matthew Tatro, and Logan Young are per diem officers. Elizabeth “Liz” Tracy is our part-time administrative assistant. I appreciate the tremendous support and guidance they provide. We currently have a full-time police officer position if you are or know someone who is interested.

You can reach us at (802) 453-2533, on Facebook, [BristolPoliceDepartment](#), by email at Bruce.Nason@vermont.gov, or by stopping by the station. Due to a shortage of dispatchers, your call may be answered by our auto attendant. Leave a message, and we will return your call as soon as we can. Please remember, if you have an emergency, dial 911.

We can’t do this without the support of our families; there are times we work extended hours; thank you for your understanding and support.

A personal thank you to Patricia and Connor. I could not have done this without your continued support.

Respectfully submitted,

Bruce Nason,
Chief of Police



Photo: Ian Albinson